

## Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /123 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0321

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 4040

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AORG, AFIN, UN, XF, CH

SUBJ: CHINESE AND ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING  
LANGUAGES

IN APPEARANCE BEFORE ACQBQ OCTOBER 17, G.V. RAO,  
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF BUDGET, UNESCO WAS QUERIED ON  
MODALITIES RE SUBJECT. HE NOTED FIRST ARABIC WAS  
ALREADY WORKING LANGUAGE AND THAT DECISION HAD BEEN  
TAKEN TO GIVE CHINESE SAME STATUS. HE THEN TRACED  
EVENTS.

RAO SAID THAT DURING 1973-74 BIENNIUM PRC WAS PROVIDING  
ITS OWN PEOPLE AT NO COST TO UNESCO TO DO INTERPRETATION,  
ETC. HOWEVER, EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD DECIDED THAT IN  
1975-76 BIENNIUM UNESCO WOULD UNDERTAKE FIRST STAGE OF  
PROVIDING FOR CHINESE. HE ADDED THAT PRC AGREED TO  
INTRODUCE CHINESE AS WORKING LANGUAGE GRADUALLY AND  
THIS WAS APPROACH THAT WOULD BE TAKEN BY UNESCO.

REGARDING ARABIC RAO SAID THAT AROUND 1961 THAT LANGUAGE  
WAS INTRODUCED IN LIMITED SCALE WITH ARAB LEAGUE  
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PROVIDING FOR TRANSLATION OF LIMITED NUMBER OF PUBLI-

CATIONS. ABOUT 1967 ARABS AGREED TO PROVIDE FUNDS ON VOLUNTARY BASIS IN AMOUNT OF ABOUT \$200,000 TO ACCOMMODATE USE OF ARABIC WITHIN UNESCO. PROGRESSIVE USE OF ARABIC HAS INCREASED AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION BY ARABS REDUCED SO THAT IN 1973-74 BIENNIUM THERE IS NO ARAB CONTRIBUTION AND UNESCO HAS PICKED UP THE FULL BILL. RAO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS CONSISTENT WITH ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNESCO AND ARAB MEMBERS.

GIVEN FACT THAT SEPARATE ITEMS HAVE BEEN INSCRIBED ON UNGA AGENDA RE CHINESE AND ARABIC AND SINCE MATTER WILL BE REFERRED TO FIFTH COMMITTEE VIA ACABQ, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO CLARIFY, ADD TO, ETC. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY RAO. ACABQ YESTERDAY HELD HEARINGS ON CHINESE AND WILL HAVE BEFORE IT DRAFT REPORT WITHIN NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. QUESTION OF ARABIC LIKELY TO ARISE IN ACABQ WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR SO.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1973USUNN04040  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ED TO FIFTH COMMITTEE VIA ACABQ, MIS, SION WOULD  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHINESE AND ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AORG, AFIN, XF, CH, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005